

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of April 14 - April 18, 2008**

- 1. Arbor Day, Saturday, April 19 from 10 to 2:** Come to the Library grounds on Saturday to receive tree seedlings, ready for planting. This annual event provides numerous species of tree seedlings to the public. There will also be information about pruning and tree care. Presentations to be provided by local commercial arborists. Groups participating include Friends of Sligo Creek, Committee on the Environment, Takoma Park Tree Commission, Takoma Park Horticulture Club, Montgomery County Master Gardeners, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission Weed Warriors. *(Public Works)*
- 2. Jackson Boyd Playground Renovation (Wards 2 & 3):** The demolition of the existing playground has begun. The renovation of the playground will take place over the next several months. The area will be unavailable for use until the new playground is installed. *(Public Works)*
- 3. A Reminder - Tomorrow! Free Breakfast -Meet & Greet with Mayor:** Franchisee and owner of the local Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins, Sameer Ailawadi, thanks his neighbors and the surrounding community with an invitation to meet and greet Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams. The free breakfast event will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins shop located at 6851 New Hampshire Avenue (on the corner of East-West Highway), from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mayor Williams will greet residents from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For further information regarding this event, please contact Executive Assistant Peggye Washington at 301-891-7230, or simply call Dunkin' Donuts at 301-270-2445. *(Executive Assistant)*
- 4. Guatemalan Visit:** Mayor Roel Perez of Ipala, Guatemala will be visiting the Takoma Park/Langley Park area April 23-25. Many people from Ipala live in the Langley Park area of Maryland. Mayor Perez will be accompanied by Professor Irayda Ruiz who studies migration patterns of people from Guatemala, among other subjects. They will be meeting with Prince George's County and City of Takoma Park officials and will host a meeting of people from Guatemala Friday night in the Takoma Park Community Center. Welcome! *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 5. Takoma Metro Resolutions:** The City Council will be considering resolutions concerning the proposed development at the Takoma Metro on April 21 and April 28. Citizen comments are encouraged! Copies of the draft resolutions, background information, and information from the March 19 community workshop and related survey will be posted on the City's web site at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro). *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 6. First Time Home Buyer Workshops:** A record 22 prospective home buyers attended the First Time Home Buyer Workshop that was held on Saturday, April 12 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park and the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), speakers included a loan officer, who explained the mortgage process, a real estate agent, a home inspector and a representative from a title company. Attendees commented that they now have a much better understanding of the home buying process and feel confident that they will be smart buyers. Everyone completing the workshop obtained a certificate that confirms their completion of a certified Home Buying Course, which is required by county and

state low interest loan programs. The next First Time Home Buyer Workshop will be conducted in Spanish on Saturday May 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To register, please call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222 or e-mail [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org). (*Housing and Community Development*)

**7. Foreclosure Assistance:** Foreclosures are on the rise in the county as well as in Takoma Park, albeit on a smaller scale. Three new state-sponsored programs are now available that can assist owners who are in default on their mortgages. Additionally, if you are a renter in a property that is being foreclosed on and need to relocate, there may be assistance available. For further information, please contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**8. Foreclosure Prevention Workshop:** On Wednesday, May 14, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the City of Takoma Park and the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) will offer a free Foreclosure Prevention Class. To register for the workshop, please contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222 to register. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**9. Closing Reception - "Bobbi Kittner: recent works" Exhibit:** Please join the Arts and Humanities Commission in Gallery Three from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27 for a celebration of the work of local artist Bobbi Kittner. Kittner's work - a collection of assemblage art using playskool blocks and found objects - has been on display in Gallery Three on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. Bring your kids and play treasure hunt bingo while visiting Bobbi's crazy, funny world. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**10. Poetry Workshop Opportunities for Families:** Anne Becker, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, will offer a series of free poetry workshops for parents and their children beginning Saturday, April 19 and continuing on April 26 and May 3. The workshops will be held in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Participants will write their own poems, read them to the group and receive feedback to deepen and enlarge their own understanding of what they have written. For more information, please call 301-891-7224. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**11. Montgomery College Facilities Plan Community Open House This Tuesday - Tuesday, April 22:** Montgomery College is updating the College's Facilities Master Plan and needs input regarding the future growth of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The College's team will provide a presentation on the current master plan, an overview of existing conditions, and data concerning projected growth. There will be opportunities for community input. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Takoma Park/Spring Campus at the Student Services Center, 7625 Fenton St. in Conference Room 302. For more information, please contact Ms. Rose Denegal at 240-567-5371 or by email at [rose.denegal@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:rose.denegal@montgomerycollege.edu). (*Housing and Community Development*)

**12. Takoma Park Elementary School Community Meeting - Wednesday, April 23:** City staff will host a meeting to review the plans and other materials related to the Takoma Park Elementary School Addition. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. The meeting is in preparation for a presentation to the City Council scheduled for Monday, April 28. Material submitted by Montgomery County Public Schools, including the traffic

study, has been posted online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). For more information on this process or for ADA accommodation, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. Volunteer this Saturday in Old Takoma!:** The Main Street Takoma Design Committee needs your help to sweep, weed, clean off graffiti and otherwise spruce up Old Takoma, Saturday, April 19. To volunteer please call (240) 253-4229. This is a Student Service Learning eligible activity. Meet at 9 a.m. at Takoma Junction, Laurel Avenue or 4th St, N.W. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Gear Up For Safety - Saturday, April 26:** Kick off Safe Kids Week with "Gear Up For Safety," a Community Health and Safety Fair in Takoma Park on Saturday, April 26 from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Families can participate in fun and games to learn about bike and pedestrian safety, police, fire and rescue services, car seat safety, and much, much more. Brought to you by the Montgomery County Safe Kids Coalition and Takoma Park Safe Routes to School. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. New Hampshire Avenue Meetings (Ward 6 and 2):** City staff will be holding three meetings soon in preparation for the Takoma/Langley Sector Plan - one May 7th (at 7 PM, 7674 New Hampshire Avenue - Zion Lutheran) to talk about density, the Purple Line, upcoming projects and the Sector Plan and what it means for the neighborhoods around the Crossroads. A second meeting will be May 13th with M-NCPPC to obtain community input regarding the future of the Long Branch Stream Valley. Those interested in walking the valley should meet at 6 PM north of Long Branch on Carroll Avenue, the meeting will start at 7 PM at the Zion Lutheran at 7675 New Hampshire Avenue. A third meeting on the Sector Plan for business owners will be during the second week in May, time and location to be announced. For more information or for ADA accommodation, please contact Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205. All meetings will have Spanish translation. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. What's on City TV?:**

- a) City TV staff covered Tastes of Takoma last Sunday at the CUC campus;
- b) The Third Thursday Poetry series this week went live on the 17th;
- c) This weekend, City TV crews will be attending Main Street Takoma Spring Clean Up Day, and the Arbor Day tree giveaway on Saturday and Earth Day events at the TPSS Co-op on Sunday. *(City TV)*

**17. MRPA Conference:** Five staff members from the Recreation Department attended the 60th Annual Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) conference. Held in Ocean City, Maryland, each April, MRPA enables all county and city recreation agencies in the state to gather to share ideas, network, and enrich their professional careers. Staff members attended sessions on team building, skate park development, park advocacy, and various programming ideas. *(Recreation)*

**18. Recreation Staff Training:** The Recreation Department sent four Afternoon Addition staff to a "Helping Children Manage Their Feelings" training through Montgomery Child Care Association on Wednesday, April 16. The staff learned strategies to recognize and manage children's feelings. *(Recreation)*

**19. Meetings with the Chief:**

- On April 15, Chief Ricucci attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference on Sex Offender Management Training and Technical Assistance Program in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Also on April 15, Chief Ricucci attended the Lion's Club 2007 Officer of the Year dinner at Holy Cross Hospital honoring Takoma Park Police Detective Thomas Black.
- On April 16, Chief Ricucci and Capt. Coursey attended the Tax Rebate meeting in Rockville to discuss issues with Montgomery County officials.
- On April 18, Chief Ricucci completed the Department's Promotional Process for Corporal. *(Police)*

**20. Police Staff in Training:** On April 15 to 17, Crime Analyst Kyleen Luy attended Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) training at the Greenbelt Police Department. This training was offered by the Maryland State Police and covered how to code crimes and complete the necessary forms for UCR. *(Police)*

**21. Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 140 traffic stops, which resulted in some citations, three (3) vehicle impounds and one (1) CDS arrest.

***During the week of April 11-18, 2008, the following details were completed:***

- 1300 block of University Blvd (speeding) - conducted a half hour detail and no warnings or citations were issued.
  - 7000-7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue (miscellaneous traffic) - conducted a one and a half (1 ½) hour detail and issued two (2) speeding citations, three (3) other state citations and one (1) SERO.
  - 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one and a half (1 ½) hour detail and issued four (4) speeding citations and two (2) warnings.
  - 200 block of Grant Avenue (youth control) - officers conduct daily details between 2:45 and 3:00 pm near the school to maintain youth control.
- (Police)*